



Media Advisory

San Antonio District Office

17319 San Pedro, Building #2, Suite 200, San Antonio, TX 78232

Release Date: IMMEDIATE
Release Number: 08-06 SADO

Contact: Lucille Salinas, PIO, 210/403-5921
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/tx/sanantonio

Austin Hearing Offers Small Business Owners Opportunity to Address Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement

WHO: **SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens**, members of the Region VI Regulatory Fairness Board (serving the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana) and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. **Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of regulations by any Federal agency.**

WHAT: To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA and the National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Hearings across the United States. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review. If any small business, non-profit organization, or small government entity believe they have experienced unfair Federal regulatory enforcement or compliance actions they may submit their comments to our office and at hearings. The National Ombudsman requests that the particular Federal Agency review the specific issues and respond to our office within a specified time period. In many instances the Federal Agency has reduced or waived particular penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the Agencies take another look at the enforcement action to ensure fairness.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 22, 2008
9:00 a.m. to Noon

WHERE: Austin City Hall
City Hall Chamber – Room 1001
301 W. 2nd St.
Austin, TX 78701

MEDIA: National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will be available on January 22 at Noon for media interviews.

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman. For more information on the January 22nd Regulatory Fairness Hearing, contact Lucille Salinas at the SBA's San Antonio District Office at (210) 403-5921 or by email at lucille.salinas@sba.gov

####

All of SBA's programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.